

MEETING OF CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
Paris, May 1960

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

MR Case No.

90-329

Document No.

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declassification in a previous review.
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Date: May 18, 1960
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: American Embassy

Participants: (8604237)

United States

Livingston T. Merchant,
Under Secretary for
Political Affairs.

Canada

Jules Leger, Canadian Permanent
Representative to NATO.

Subject: Summit Conference; Berlin Contingency Planning; Disarmament

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I saw Ambassador Leger for about half an hour this afternoon. I asked him what his thoughts were. He said that he had never seen NATO more united than it is today. He said he also thought that General de Gaulle and even his country must bear some responsibility for the failure of the conference by too heavy insistence on the non-discussibility of Berlin at the Summit which, in his view, may have led Khrushchev to the conclusion that there was nothing in it for him. In connection with NATO unity, he thought that pressure on the weaker countries in the alliance would be stepped up by the Soviets and that the latter would continue to pound the U-2 propaganda theme.

In reply to his questions I gave him a quick summary of the conference. He thought that it had been handled very well by the West in face of Khrushchev's intemperance.

Ambassador Leger asked the state of contingency planning. I told him that substantially it was in the same condition as at the time of the last report on it to the NATO Council but that the present state of our planning had been reviewed this morning by the three Foreign Ministers and a working group had been appointed to do a summary of conclusions for the Heads of Government later in the day.

He asked if the President's statement that U-2 flights had been suspended now lapsed in light of the failure of the conference. I said that the President had not qualified his statement that they

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would not be resumed during his term of office.

He asked about the future of the nuclear test and disarmament conferences. I said that the future and events would tell and that we would have to consider the matter in light of deliberation on the meaning of the Summit Conference and what the Soviets might do in the coming days. Meanwhile, naturally our posture was that we assumed the talks would continue and would hope for constructive results.

We discussed inconclusively what the risks and chances were that Khrushchev might do something precipitate on Berlin.

USDAL:LTMerchant:sp
May 18, 1960

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